Ambassador Feinstein's Remarks for US-Chinese Plaque Dedication Ceremony July 30, 2012, Myślewicki Palace, 9:30a.m.

Panie Prezydencie, Panie Ambasadorze, Szanowni Państwo:

[President Komorowski, Ambassador Sun ("SOON"), Ladies and Gentlemen:]

To dla mnie zaszczyt, że mogę wspólnie z Państwem odsłonić tablicę upamiętniającą wkład Polski w nowe otwarcie w stosunkach Stanów Zjednoczonych z Chińską Republiką Ludową.

[It is an honor to be with you today to dedicate this plaque commemorating the important work that was done here in Poland, marking a new beginning to relations between the United States and the People's Republic of China.]

Spotkania amerykańskich i chińskich dyplomatów, które odbywały się w tym pięknym miejscu, są dowodem na to, że cicha i cierpliwa dyplomacja często prowadzi do historycznych zmian; a nawiązanie bezpośrednich relacji ogranicza napięcia oraz nieporozumienia i często pomaga znaleźć wspólny mianownik między narodami.

[The meetings between American and Chinese diplomats that occurred in this beautiful palace are proof that quiet, patient diplomacy is often the forerunner to historic change; that direct face-to-face communication can reduce tensions and misunderstandings, and can find common ground between nations.]

Poland deserves to be proud of the important role it played by offering in 1958 to host this effort to build trust and preserve the peace during the height of the Cold War. Poland understood then, as it does today, that communication was crucial to understanding, and that all nations shared an interest in promoting international harmony.

The work that was done here was historic. It was in Warsaw that the United States and China first broached the idea of sending a high-ranking American official to visit China, paving the way for Secretary of State Kissinger's secret visit in July 1971, and ultimately, President Nixon's historic trip in February, 1972.

Today, the fruits of the seeds which were planted decades ago here in Warsaw are evident in the dynamic and broad relationship which the United States and China now maintain, which Secretary Clinton has described as "the most consequential relationship of the 21st century."

Thanks to the dialogue that began here at Myślewicki Palace, our diplomats and officials now meet openly and often. Since 2009, we have met annually in the high-level Strategic and Economic Dialogue, where we are steadily building that cooperation. The United States and China now work hand in hand on issues that range from energy policy to disaster relief and from forestry management to disease control.

Our objective is to build what Secretary Clinton called "a resilient relationship that allows both of our nations to thrive without unhealthy competition, rivalry or conflict." Like our Polish partners, "We want to see China not only deliver economic prosperity for its large population, but also play a key role in world affairs." Together, the United States and China "are building a foundation for future cooperation that will benefit both our nations and the world."

Mam nadzieję, że ta tablica będzie przypominała światu o wyjątkowej roli Polski w szerzeniu zrozumienia i pokoju między narodami oraz o tym, co można osiągnąć na drodze cierpliwej demokracji.

[In the years to come, I hope this plaque will serve as a symbol to the world of what can be accomplished patient diplomacy, and as a reminder of Poland's unique role in promoting international understanding and peace.]